

City of Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities  
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>>I was like, what did I walk into?  
>>It's the SCPD dance party.  
>>Holly: Brian, you're ready for winter?  
>>Winter? I just got my hair cut.  
>>Holly: No. Your beard is fantastic.  
>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. That's tame for Brian over the past year- and- a- half. It's often twice as long as that.  
>>Holly: Whatever makes him happy.  
>>Bonnie Denis: All right. Oh. Great. Sharp Commission Party Dance, yes, Lian, that's our new name. Hi, Viola, you missed baby shark blasting threw the air waves.  
It looks like we're just missing Colin. So I'm going to say we should start. Let me pull up the agenda. Viola, are you just joining us to tune in or did you have things you wanted to share?  
>>Viola: I was here in case there are any questions on the Gillman Square material or I'll hang out and listen.  
>>Bonnie Denis: I forgot to send that material to people. Is it online or should I find the e- mail to forward it to folks now?  
>>At this point it's just -- you know, we're just sending it specifically to our committees and commissions. And then after the public meeting on the 22nd, we'll have it online.  
>>Bonnie Denis: Okay. Let me find that. Apologies to people for not remembering to send this. It might make it difficult to discuss it, but I'm going to e- mail it so that everybody has it and then see if I can pull it up. Give me one second.

Denise, would it be possible for me to do screen sharing?  
>>This is Denise. You should be able to share. All right.  
Is that showing for people?

>>It is.

>>Bonnie Denis: Great. And it might be tricky to go over a lot of this now since folks haven't had a chance to review it.

>>This is Brian --

>>I'm sorry.

>>Brian: Just for the Commission's benefit, I think it would be good -- I think this section that you just scrolled through is probably the most impactful and beneficial to have feedback from the Commission. And it's probably a bite that we can take off in maybe 10 to 15 minutes.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Agreed. I think that I saw, and maybe it was on the server infrastructure, Jessie, a picture of the proposed crossings at various intersections for this?

>>Jesse: I think that's something Tom Lamar shared for our Pearl -- it will be the bigger scope of all of this but not this exactly.

>>Bonnie Denis: Okay. This is Bonnie. So that to me was much more accessible to digest than these very technical plans. I'm wondering if there's more of that or if that's something that somebody here has that could be shared. Because I saw a couple of images and the thing that struck me was where the curb cuts were going to be, namely around the corner of the intersections. And I can sort of see that on this drawing that's on the screen now, but I think it shows a lot clearer in those pictures.

>>Viola: Do you mind, Bonnie, I can give a little bit of background.

>>Bonnie Denis: Sure.

>>Viola: So the intersections that Jesse was mentioning and you were just talking about, they are not related to this project and they are along in different areas and in different contexts. This one here is the beginning of the redesign of pearl and Medford in Gillman Square between Skill Street and -- as part of the redesign the consultant that we hired, we also asked the consultant to do a quick check or feasibility if it's possible to create an ADA-compliant path approximately from Marshal Street up to the top of the bridge, which then will get you all the way to the community path and the community path is ADA compliant. So you could get to the Gillman Square Station without going up to Pearl Street, which we will not get ADA compliant because of the steepness. So

this is just a diagram where they tested two different, what would it take to go up Medford Street Bridge on the southwest side or the north/northeast side.

So this is by no means how it will look like. It's also by no means saying we can only have one or the other. This is really just, you know, this would be an option or this is what it would take. And the message there is if you go to the previous slide, that in both, you know, if we do it on the right side, I'd say from this, there is a substantial portion that will be a ramp, which is the Sion side. And then the other side, the next slide shows if we pull the path a little bit towards School Street, then we can get away with a path that is, you know, probably -- or a walkway that is closer to 5% and only a short portion of a ramp.

So it's obviously the dilemma we always have, you know, you're either going to have a steeper 8% ramp, but a shorter distance, or you have a longer walk, but that is less than 5% with just a short ramp. So I think that's probably the biggest feedback that you can give to us, especially since nobody has had time to look at the entire package, which the rest is much more about do we want two- way bicycling on one side or a bicycling on each side and a little bit of the intersections the section of the streets with trees.

So I know it's a lot of information, Bonnie. This was just like the very first time our consultants haven't really started designing yet but done these two feasibility studies and need to get direction from the city and the committees and all that on the layout of the sections.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. That is incredibly helpful. So this slide that I have up now, the sort of like neon blue section, that would be the ramp in that proposal.

>>Viola: Correct.

>>Bonnie Denis: And then on this slide, it would just be this section?

>>Viola: Yeah. And again, this is not -- neither of them are fully fledged out designs. Both of them just show the length of the path and a possibility of a ramp that would get us to point B that is at the lower right corner in the proposal. And point B is where the abutment of the bridge starts. So we're trying to see can we get to that point which is basically making improvements without getting into the DOT realm, which is the Department of Transportation who owns the bridges.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I'm not going to be able to get resolution good enough right now to be able to figure

this out on my own. What is the difference in length of the two paths?

>>Viola: I don't have the number. I could -- I can try to get that to you by sometime tomorrow and e-mail it to you, Bonnie.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. Do other folks have comments?

>>I saw something in the chat about the Medford Street being open.

>>This is Holly. That was my question.

>>Hi, Holly. This is Viola again. So the Medford Street Bridge will open to full traffic once GLXC or () is done with the bridge which we're hoping the end of this year or early next year. But the city is -- the city's long-term vision is to close it for vehicular traffic and make it a pedestrian/bicycle priority bridge. But right now this is just the first step, but we don't have any funding for that yet or a consultant hired.

>>Funding to close it or funding to --

>>Viola: The first step in -- sorry. This is Viola again. The first step in closing it would be that we want to do a proper design and a property community outreach, you know, treat it as its own design project and that's what I mean. We don't have any funding to hire a consultant that would do both.

>>Denise, do you think you can turn on that shark party dance music again, even if it's temporary, because I live on a street that empties on to marshal and I have -- it takes me a ridiculous amount of time. I could not just walk it. I could push my car if the street was empty, faster with the traffic with the bridge closed. So I am very happy to hear, Viola, that it will be opened.

But I'm a little bit concerned, you know, I'm looking at this document that's from October, but it says you need feedback by November 11th, and it's the 9th.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. This is my fault for not sharing this. I missed it and it was only sent to me.

>>That's okay. It's not a fault at all, Bonnie. I was just asking if we could have more than two days, if that was possible. There's no fault, Bonnie.

>>Viola: This is Viola. I'm happy to take your comments for another week. We will collect all the comments we've gotten, hopefully I will get from others, and start to give that feedback to our consultants who just need to move forward. But, yeah, please send it to me.

>>Holly: You're sharing it with our Commission today. Are

you seeking endorsement from us?

>>Viola: This is Viola again. I'm happy to collect the comments and then if next month you want to endorse the comments, you know, you can send the endorsed ones to me then.

>>Holly: I'm confused. Do you mean as the Commission, I'm asking as a Commission if you're asking us to endorse or not endorse this plan. I appreciate that we can send in questions and comments, but I'm just trying to just clarify if you're asking for an endorsement from us that we would vote on.

>>Brian: So this is Brian. So we have been, on all of our street projects lately, we have been seeking official comments from the various commissions and committees that have some sort of purview over our public ways. It is not a required step. There's nothing that is going to hold up the process by not having it, but we want the comments. We want to be able to incorporate them into the project. And ideally, they are -- they're comments that the committee or commissions have all agreed on as a group are good rather than them being individual comments from individual members.

But since we're not at a place as a Commission today to be able to pull our comments together to issue them as a group, then that's not -- that's not the critical path. I think the critical path is just getting comments into the system for the designer to review and for us to consider.

I think the only concern would be is if one member had a comment that another member disagreed with and -- but I'm not overly worried about that.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you, Brian. I'm going to make a quick comment and then Lian had their hand raised for a while. So I'm going to note this is going to be part of our discussion when we get to the things on the agenda, which a lot of it for this month is priority setting and one of the things that I added is I do think that there should be a more official documented process for how we provide feedback like this because there have been many points where I have received something and there hasn't been time to get it to the Commission, and because we can't do our own discussion outside of these meetings, that has meant that when we receive something does not necessarily overlap with the period when the feedback needs to happen.

And so as a process city-wide, I think that could use some improvement and hopefully that's something that an ADA Coordinator can help work with city staff on how we design that because, yeah, like this particular project, I think they will have to be individual comments. But moved forward, if the goal is to actually have the input, which I think it

should be, then we should have some sort of process for this is when you'll receive materials, this is how long it will be to be able to comment, and making sure that coincides with when we have meetings because otherwise, it's just impossible to do, Lian.

>>Yeah. So going back to the question about which side of the street to put the path on, so I don't quite understand what -- where this is, like is this basically the sidewalk? Is this a separate structure that's being built? Like is there some reason, space or construction-wise that it couldn't be both such that people would have an option whether they wanted a shorter steeper path or a longer narrower slope?

>>Viola: This is Viola. Thanks, Lian. As I said, this is not a design that is showed, it's a diagram. And as I said, it doesn't mean that we have to choose one or the other. It can be a path on both sides. And because we are planning the full new design of Medford Street Bridge, it also doesn't have to be on the sidewalk. The only thing we know right now is that we need to keep at least emergency access, so that limits where we would put paths.

So this, as I keep repeating, it was really our consultants were asked is it even possible. Because we had, in the last community meeting, we had on this design was last October and in our concept we had shown that there might be an ADA path possible, but we didn't have like all the grades yet, all the elevations. So this is just before we even continue in any which way, we know now that it is possible and the consultant had shown two options, but very loosely.

>>Lian: Okay. Yeah, I think if the question is, which of the options is better, my personal answer at least would be if you can do both of them, do both of them because one is going to be better for some people and the other is going to be better for some other people. And if there is no reason not to have both options, then more options is almost always going to be better.

>>Viola: Yeah. Thank you. Viola. I totally -- sorry. I wanted to go back to the process and both to what Brian and you said, Bonnie. It's a real -- I love the idea that you work amongst yourselves and with us on a more formal process that we can all work by, and because of the lack of it, it's really hard for us to include all the committees, so all have different meeting times and each committee has their own way of dealing with this.

So I totally appreciate that. And, you know, the process we followed in this one where we actually really tried to make sure there is a month- long or almost a month- long comment

period, maybe it was a little less, sorry, but really tried to see that each committee had enough time to either look at it beforehand or we could integrate something or work individually with committees.

So it's by no means perfect, obviously, and what I did is, I mean, I send it to the offices or the head of the committees because I don't know what your internal process is or how you usually do it.

And then I just wanted to say, what Brian had said is -- I agree. There's no formal agreement that you have to have, but obviously, when you disagree, you have to come up with one -- one response to us, or maybe even two. I don't -- I mean, if you endorse, it could be both. That's fine, too.

So because of the time frame now, what I had suggested is I'm happy to collect individual comments this time and then if you next month want to endorse a final set of comments, then we will consider that. But in the meantime, we can already look at the individual comments and get a sense. And if they're all the same, then we're fine. If there are differences, you know, we will wait on that or maybe I'll check in next month again. So we can be a little flexible right now, if that makes any sense.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. I mean, just a quick note, I received that October 25th, so it's definitely not a month.

>>Not a month, yes.

>>Bonnie Denis: And it was after our previous meeting, so like this really is the first chance we would have to discuss it. And I did miss sending it to people, but it still wouldn't have been much actual time. And I get it, it's hard. There's so many projects going on. But I think that as much as we possibly can work together to try to figure out a streamlined way of doing it. And it ties into we're trying to figure out places to have documents and that's something that I think the city needs to be better in terms of accessibility in sharing with constituents anyhow.

So we should talk about if there's a way to have an internal document library for things like this that you can share for us to have access to without it always having to go through one person. But I don't want to get too deep into that. Henry had a comment.

>>Henry: Thank you. Yeah. This is Henry. I had a few clarifying questions, three of them. The first is, I understand that this process is moving and that there's a desire or a requirement for feedback as soon as possible, but I'm going to ask feedback on what? Because we've also heard

that this is not a plan. It's just an illustration. So that seems like contradictory set of premises behind those two things.

Do you want me to give all three questions or should I give you a chance to respond to that? Let me briefly state the other two because they're simpler, probably.

Secondly, just on diagram two, those two green squares at the lower right that say "at grade" and yet it shows this teal thing showing there's a steep grade there and it's kind of square around it, so what are those small green squares look like and what grade are they to? Is it to the great of the street, to the grade of like the lowest point on the walk or the highest point, or are they somehow strangely contoured, you know, to accord with that square steep grade?

Third question is one which I've contemplated since I've recently moved to Union Square. One nice thing for me about walking up Somerville Ave is I can sit down and rest every hundred yards or something which sometimes I need to do. If I was going up this long grade I would need a couple of stopping points where I could just kind of collect myself. And also, another issue that I've encountered several times is trying with all the, particularly all the on- street stuff like in Davis is finding pick- up points for a Lyft or something like that.

So those are my three issues. And I hope that's not too much, but those were my thoughts. Thank you. Viola, did you want to say something about that or --

>>Viola: Sure. If that's okay. I'm going to do it probably in the reverse because that's how I remember it now. The pick- up points for a Lyft or Uber, those would come on Medford street and Pearl Street, I'm pointing to my plan now. Those would be between School Street and Skillton, which that is the street and that is when we continue with the design on that, that's a really great point and we had in the concept last year shown sort of flexible areas that could be used for pick- up or drop off or regular parking or whatever. So that's a good reiteration. And as we go along with our consultants on it, we take that seriously, as well as ADA parking in general.

The benches are a great thing and that is once we will proceed with a proper design on Medford Street, that's when we will consider all, you know, where do we put resting areas or, you know, what kind of benches where. So again, a good valid point. That is not going to be pertinent to this phase, but it will come when we design Medford Street Bridge.

And to your first question, what are we commenting on, I



tried to tease out the question that could come out of this, although it is a diagram and not a design, there's the fact that, you know, we can either design a longer path that is less than 5% or we can design to a shorter path that is 8% and a ramp. And, you know, that's the kind of feedback we would be looking for, as well as, you know, it's like I'd rather have the crossing closer to School Street, I'd like to have two crossings. So that is to this diagram.

And then the other thing is, there is more to it than just this diagram. There are sections that are proposed for Medford Street and for Pearl Street and that is where you, you know, can give feedback on as well. I hope I answered the questions.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Henry, you're muted.

>>Henry: Okay. Now, thank you very much. That helps me to understand a little clarity on that. And my response to your, what is the immediate question we can answer is the same as Lian is both. One thing I've learned about disability and the disabled community is that it's very diverse and there isn't a one-size-fits-all necessarily. And also, just, you know, you just have to go through Davis to know that people are not going to follow the intended traffic flow as pedestrians. They're just going to go every where, so we've got to let them get from wherever they go to wherever they're going.

Thank you.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thanks, Henry. I have one more question, but I just want to tack on to what Lian and Henry said about both sides. That's really critical given that a lot of the time one side will be blocked for trash pick-up and recycling and if there is ever any construction that closes even one chunk of the sidewalk, not doing both sides means that then it's just inaccessible altogether, so I think that's really important.

I'm curious, so we're talking about these individual ramps being longer or shorter or different steepnesses. What about the overall path? Like are we talking that it's a sustained 5% the entire length of the longer path or is it just that section of the, like, ramped area? I'm just trying get a sense of is the shorter one steeper the entire length or --

>>Viola: So the way they're showing it right now I believe is 4.5% on the blue and close to 8% on the neon cyan.

>>Bonnie Denis: Okay. Thank you. All right. Thank you for coming and talking to us. I think --

>>Thank you.

>>Bonnie Denis: -- unless anybody's got anything else, agree is -- Lian?

>>Lian: I just wanted to make a quick note. I know that we had mentioned it earlier in terms of the other project, but I also see it on this one with the crosswalk being sort of set back on marshal street and so I wanted to just flag that here of is there a reason it can't just be a straight line from the crosswalk on Pearl Street so that you don't have to go out of the way to get to the crosswalk?

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Yeah, I'm the person that mentioned that and I noticed it very distinctly in Marshal Square is that all the intersections required sort of turning the corner and turning back to cross and that's a design that we've highlighted before is a challenge. And I understand that being an existing condition in a lot of our streetscape, but I'm unclear on why we would add that in when redesigning streets or perpetuated.

>>Viola: I'm not answering because this is not a design yet and I'm making a note that when we design them, we --

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I mean, I understand it's not a design, but it's also like what's being presented and so -- I think Brian can speak to why, so if you want to chime in.

>>Brian: Sure. So this is Brian. Two things. I think that the diagram that they were showing was at that crossing on Marshal that was an existing crossing that they were just highlighting, so. I mean, yeah, maybe they could show -- maybe they could show it more aspirational, but I don't disagree with you, but I also -- I think we have to realize that wasn't the goal of the diagram.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Well, I think -- I think we should be talking about that; right. I keep highlighting this at every meeting I show up at. Our designers are putting stairs in and not showing elevators and ramps. They're putting cobblestones, they're putting bricks and pavers. And I will say that pavers have been used in some of the most recent projects and there are bricks in Assembly. So I think when we're talking about you're presenting things to people you do need to be thinking about it at that point because otherwise, we think you're not and we have to put a lot of effort into showing up and getting support and repeatedly saying this is a problem.

And if the goal is to work together, then I think on the city side it shouldn't be a large ask to have these things go with what you aim for a design to be and be aspirational about it and then we can have the conversation if it has to change,

but like, from our standpoint it just looks like.

>>Lian: This is Lian. I want to add to that that even if this isn't a design, it's just a here's the current status of things, I think that's something that I want to call out because otherwise, it's probably just going to stay that way because that's how it is now. So I think it is important to notice those things now so that they can be flagged as something to actually think about in the design instead of that wasn't what we were designing it for, so it just ended up staying there.

>>This is Viola. I just wanted to say I did not with my comment mean that the comment wasn't appropriate right now here. My response was I thought both Lian or you, Bonnie, referred to the Pearl Street intersections or the other package and that's where I said that's not -- I'm not responding to that, and that was it. I totally agree that we need to be better and even in our early conceptual and diagrammatic designs show things that are more appropriate.

It's going to not happen overnight, especially, you know, on some of the precedent images that you see, Bonnie, and I know you made a comment on the I think brick bottom vision plan on that. I mean, we are dealing with a lot of projects where we're showing an intent and a lot of them are not appropriately designed. So, you know, I just -- I totally hear you and I am absolutely hundred percent behind you. I just also ask for, you know --

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I hear that. I just -- I've been making these comments for well over a year, probably two or three years. I was incredibly surprised to go to a different area of Assembly recently and see that there were bricks in the sidewalk. Like I wasn't as involved when that decision got made, but it surprised me that we have new construction with that.

But I've been showing up to these planning meetings for quite some time making the same comment. So I understand that there's a lot of projects and, you know, it will take time to make that shift, but I don't actually have a sense that the city is saying to designers that you're hiring, please don't use these materials in your representations of what we're aiming for. Because I have a hard time believing that you're receiving that work and not commenting on it if that's something you were given as a design directive.

So what I'm saying is I want the city to step it up in terms of making sure that's clear when you're hiring people and making sure that when people are submitting things to you you're not letting that be what shows up at community meetings

unless it's what you intend, because we shouldn't be over a year into commentary like this. This is repeated and consistent and still showing up to those meetings and having to highlight it.

Because what happens if we don't? The alternative is going to be, well, we didn't get any feedback that it was a problem. And if what you're saying is, well, we're not presenting what we actually intend to do, then I shouldn't have to show up to every single meeting and highlight it as a problem. But I know that if I don't, it's just going to get built and then it's going to be, nobody said it was a problem. So it's just -- it's frustrating to keep seeing it in every single design.

I mean, we have it, too, in Union Square in the design of the elevator plaza where there's social stairway. Like why are we doing that? I measured incorrectly and thought that the new library ramp was beyond grade for what requires a railing and it's not, but I still got to say, like why did we put in a library ramp with pavers and no railing and a staircase that is open and diagonal on one side and people can easily fall off of? Like I just -- the city is making a lot of mistakes with the built environment and falling back to, it's technically compliant even though it's not very functional and it's not the most inclusive.

So it would just be nice to have the planning stages start out where you want to end up. That's all.

>>Lian: This is Lian.

>>Bonnie Denis: I just -- unless it's directly relevant to this, I do want to move us through the agenda so that we make sure we get to some of the other topics as well.

>>Brian: I have one directly relevant thing. This is Brian. Bonnie, I did take your comments and I'm going to pull them back into the Pearl and 6th. I had looked through those drawings and there were definitely two that had crosswalks that were set back. And that is something that we have been directing our contract -- our designers to do and I just missed those two.

Sometimes we can't always do it because we're doing a raised crossing, so you have to have space for slopes as well as accessible curb ramps, sometimes we can't do the ramp right on the curb line, but that is the goal. Narrower sidewalks make that more complicated, but that is the goal.

Another thing that we've been trying to do is extend the crosswalk all the way out to the gutter line of the intersecting street so that -- so that -- so that if you don't absolutely need to use the accessible curb ramp, you can

continue going straight across. So the goal is to get everything lined up, accessible curb ramp, stripes, et cetera, and we only don't do that when we can't get it to work that way.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. Lian.

>>Lian: This is Lian, I just want to really quick add a little bit about the previous conversation. It's really hard to tell what's a concept and what's a design, and so if we call it a problem on a concept and they're told, oh, well, it doesn't matter because that's a concept, we don't really know like, okay, when are we supposed to say something and when are we not. And if something is in a concept, what that is communicating to us is that somebody in the design process thinks that this is a reasonable thing to put in. And so it is likely that if it's not called out at some point, it's going to end up in the final design. So I think it's hard to mention a problem and be told, oh well, it doesn't matter at this point because this is just a concept. Maybe it is just a concept, but why are you putting that in the concept? And the more that those things being flagged as soon as possible the less likely they will end up getting in a final design and actually implemented.

>>Viola: This is Viola. And Lian and Bonnie, and everybody, I absolutely hear that. And when we say oh this is a concept, it's not going to look like -- or it's meant as an inspiration or aspiration more as an experience overall and not so much on the materials, it's not meant as a diminishing feedback on our end saying, you know, you should not say it. I did not mean it like that. And when I said, you know, this is a learning curve on everybody, and I know, Bonnie, you've been at it a lot longer, but we are -- you know, we are dealing with consultants that are not quite as up, and even though we say we cannot use brick, when they show an image because the image has everything else is what they're showing, you know, the kind of trees they want to use and that image happens to have a brick sidewalk, we don't always catch it. And that's on us. But it doesn't mean that we're not communicating to our consultants and we're trying hard on the final design to have an accessible path that is not brick.

So, you know, I just wanted to -- I hope my comment wasn't misunderstood that you know, this is not the right time for you to say so. And I don't know if it would be helpful to do at one point to your Commission and brief overview about how the design process is and at what point we're looking for what feedback that might help all of us be comfortable with language and expectations. I'm happy to do that if you feel

like that is helpful.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I think --

>>Lian: This is Lian. Honestly, I think one thing that would be really helpful is if it is a case like that just being very up front of this is something that the consultant put in. We've already communicated to them that there shouldn't be brick and it won't be in the next draft would go a lot farther than saying just oh, it doesn't matter because it's just the concept and just sort of that sense of knowing that you realize that it's a problem already, even if it hasn't been changed in the draft we're currently seeing, like knowing that either you've already told the consultants not to put it in the next one or, oh, we missed that, we will do that, and just that step of the, yes, we will actively make sure that this doesn't go forward would go a long way.

>>Bonnie Denis: Henry.

>>Henry: Yes, this is Henry. Just very briefly. Is there standard language that you send to contractors about materials and ADA compliance and fair housing compliance and other accessibility issues? And if so, could we review a copy of that, please? And if not, maybe that would be a good thing for consistency and accountability, that that be part of the contract that you don't do these things, you don't use cobblestone?

>>Viola: Brian, I'll let you answer that. I mean, engineers are --

>>Brian: We don't -- no. We do not have a contract that specifies design preferences like this. This is -- these are elements that need to be discussed and negotiated, and we're not in a position to -- to create a set of rules that could be changed again in the future.

Contracts are for services rendered and they have to follow rules and regulations. If it we want to establish a set of rules and regulations, we could do that because they are shared rules and regulations. But we don't currently have a set of rules and regulations on brick versus cobblestone versus asphalt and roads, for example.

>>Henry: Thank you for the clarification because what I thought I heard was we communicate these requirements to the contractors and --

>>Brian: We -- go ahead.

>>Henry: And I'm understanding that to mean that informally we may have a discussion with them, but we have no requirements document, we have no standards and we have nothing enforceable. Is that right?

>>Brian: Well, I think, and again, this is Brian, I think

that's a little extreme. We enforce our own contracts for design work and we don't accept them until we accept them, and we don't let them out to bid until we agree with them. So, yes, we do have the ability to enforce our own contracts and the designs within them.

>>Henry: Well, then how do we have bricks in Assembly?

>>Brian: Bonnie, I'm going to go to you and see if you want to continue this, I'm happy to answer it, but I know we have agenda.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I mean, I am curious how we have bricks in Assembly and pavers that aren't even laid evenly on a ramp to a library, but I'm not sure that any of us are going to find the answer satisfying and I don't know that we have time to get into that continued argument this evening.

So I will say that the built environment is one of the things to be discussed in our priority setting, so we will get back to this conversation in going over what we as a Commission want to prioritize. I hope that's satisfactory for now because there's not --

>>Brian: I only went to Bonnie because I know this could go on for a while and I didn't -- I wanted to respect your schedule.

>>Bonnie Denis: Yes. In the chat Holly is asking about recommending adding a meeting to our schedule. That is a thing that we could discuss doing. I'm not sure how feasible it will be, given Thanksgiving coming up, but, yeah.

So on the agenda tonight we have priority setting and discussion of the parking funds. I also, and I think we should do first, if Director Capers has any updates to share with us. The one that I am wanting to check on is the status of Henry and Jennifer being recommended to the appointments committee, because I know that there was just a meeting of the appointments committee and I wasn't sure if they hadn't gotten in or if they hadn't brought them up for discussion or what was going on there.

>>Denise: This is Denise. I'm not sure if you mean the appointments committee meeting for October or November.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I know that there was just one in October.

>>Denise: Yeah. The one for November is still scheduled. I have to double-check and make sure that they're either in the one for November or the one for December. But they have been -- I have been in contact with the -- with Lauren. So I will -- I will give an update that via e-mail.

>>Bonnie Denis: Great. Thank you.

>>Denise: The other update I have is that we have selected

a final candidate for the position of ADA Coordinator. We have made an offer to the candidate and they have accepted. They will be starting November 17th. I'm not going to disclose the name of the person because we want to respect the confidentiality of the person and details associated until the onboarding process is done and cleared with.

What I will say is that I think Jesse and Bonnie can speak, and Brian, can speak to how very pleased we were with this particular candidate throughout the entire process. We did not make it easy. And so I'll let them speak to their impressions of the candidate, again, please keep the name confidential. I promise you that as soon as November 17th comes around, we will make an announcement and you will be able to meet them at the next Commission meeting.

I will be presenting them to you via e-mail and we were super excited to have them onboard. So I'll let Jesse and Bonnie and Brian chime in however they would like to speak on our new ADA Coordinator.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Jesse, if you'd like to go first.

>>Jesse: Sure. Thank you. This is Jesse. We went through an extensive process led by Director Capers where we interviewed six perspective ADA Coordinators, all had strengths here and there, but this one person who we have selected was far and away best suited for this role and I'm very excited would work with them when they come onboard.

>>Bonnie Denis: Thank you.

>>Jesse: I'm trying to be very vague without saying why I like this person, but I think all of you will also like this person.

>>Bonnie Denis: Brian, did you want to add anything?

>>Brian: I agree with Jesse and Denise. I got to meet her on one and I was very pleased with how she responded and just how she interacted with us as a person who was motivated by these topics.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. This has been hard to sit on this week. Yeah. I'm excited. This candidate was definitely I think the most qualified and they are a strong advocate and have ties to the disability community already. And I'm -- I'm super excited by it, so. I have high hopes and I really look forward to working with them on just kind of getting everything to a better place, so, yeah.

This is Bonnie. Is that it for your update?

>>Denise: That is it for my update. Again, I will make sure to update everyone via e-mail in regards to the potential commissioners that were recommended and I will keep



everyone posted as far as next steps for the new ADA Coordinator.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. I'll try to lower the smile a little bit, but I might not succeed.

Great. So I would like to move us on to priority setting. Have folks had a chance to kind of do their own review of that? I'm not really seeing a lot of head knots or anything. I see Henry's hand.

>>Lian: This is Lian. I looked things over and thought about it and, of course, to make notes on this one. Let me see if I can actually find the e-mail again.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I want to hear Henry's comments and would it be helpful for me to bring up a screen with kind of the list of things? I'm seeing a couple of head nods so I will do that while Henry starts.

>>Henry: Yeah. I don't have a very clear idea of what the scope of possible things that could be prioritized is, so that would be very helpful what you just said.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Holly had shared a list, and I've added some as well, but I've brought it up. That's not really doing anything to change. Let me see if I can get the screen a little bigger. All right. Is that all right for folks?

This is my thoughts on distributing parking funds, but this is my thoughts on -- so we've got kind of a bunch of things. I wrote plan review, site review on new and gut reno, and what I mean by that is, you know, there's a lot in the built environment. This is specifically with regards to buildings, but there's also the streetscape and outdoor dining, parking, master plans, things like that. We've talked about outdoor dining access and compliance, a 311 ADA category, coordinated timeline of our involvement in these things.

We've received notice of a couple of variance requests and that kind of is unclear. Like I don't know if we're receiving all of them or not. I know in the past we weren't because I think Nancy Salamune was holding on to them when we weren't meeting quorum so we were never seeing them. We've seen a couple now but they get sent through somebody else in the city and then to me and then there's no kind of like time for when we're supposed to respond.

I see, Denise, you have your hand.

>>Denise: So that is something that I have looked into to discuss with legal and that's going to be part of what the new ADA Coordinator has to work on because there's several -- there is -- there's a piece of it that we have to add here to

statewide and then there's a piece of it that is handled within the city in a specific type of way.

So to my knowledge, you have been receiving all the variance requests. And then the piece that has to be solidified with when the ADA Coordinator comes onboard is how the process moves forward after that. My understanding is that the Commission is supposed to either say that they are for it and recommend that the variance request be granted or say that they're against it and that they don't recommend it. That is -- that is the purpose of the commission's receiving the variance request. But again, that is going to be better solidified as a process once the ADA Coordinator comes onboard. But you have been receiving the variance requests.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. We have been receiving the most recent ones, so I appreciate confirmation on that. We definitely had not been receiving them for a while. Look, I know I looked into the library and there were a couple of variances filed for it and we did not see those as a Commission. And that was a time that we were not making quorum and so I think --

>>Denise: This is Denise, I'm sorry. I meant since I've been onboard. Sorry. I want to be clear about that.

>>Bonnie Denis: That's all right. Thank you. Yeah. So I think we agree that this is absolutely like how we're supposed to respond. It's just unclear when, how long we have to respond, who the responses go through. So, yeah.

And Henry, I see your hand.

>>Henry: Thank you. This is Henry. I have not looked at this document before. If I had it, my bad. But that is very helpful. And I don't have a specific ranking of all of these points, although I'll give it further consideration for next time.

But my rough list of priorities is legal compliance is the most important thing. You know, what I've learned since I became poor is that when you're poor, there are these laws that supposedly protect you, but there's no one to enforce it. It's up to you as a poor person to somehow get the system engaged to enforce those rights and it's very difficult. There's a lot of resistance and reasons why we have other priorities and things.

Secondly, accountability, not in terms of like witch-hunting people, but just in terms of setting expectations and then seeing that they're met. And this circles back to the discussion I had or we had with Brian last time about what are our metrics in terms of compliant parking and you said in a couple months we might have some better numbers about that, if

I recall the discussion.

My third point is education. You know, we've made efforts towards education about black history. We've made efforts towards some education about gender issues. Much more to be done. We can certainly do more about disability issues to articulate what are the rights of the disabled and that these are everyone's rights; that not special rights, you know, discriminating against abled people about their rights, which everyone has at such time as they have a disability issue or something that impacts their ability to function in society.

Education, what is taught in schools, advocacy and part of advocacy could be social media, it could be community television, it can be press releases. I think we could do more with the website both for internal resourcing and documentation and a database. And in terms of external resources and information and vetted information that we find to be useful, timely and accurate.

Thank you very much.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you, Henry. I love those categories. I see a thumbs up from Denise as well. I'm curious how others feel because, you know, so this list was in an e-mail last month that I sent afterwards, so it would have been easy to miss. Holly had started a list of things asking me how can we talk about prioritizing things. And I thought that was a good thing to do, especially knowing that we're going to have a new ADA Coordinator, I think it helps to frame the conversation of here are the things we as a Commission find most critical. Because we all know that there is a lot outstanding, there's a lot that needs to be done, and without kind of giving some roadmap for which things we think are most important to take on quickly, it's hard to know where to start.

Henry, I see you putting these in the chat. I added them to this document as well and I will share it afterwards with everybody.

Lian, I see your hand. I just wanted to finish. I'm curious what people think in terms of kind of taking some of these concrete things we need to address and putting them into these categories versus just ranking them.

>>Holly: This is Holly. I think any way of organizing this is a great idea.

>>Lian: This is Lian. Yeah, I think being able to categorize things, even if it's not strict categories, would be helpful in terms of figuring out what capacity there is for different things and being able to say, this thing is a lower

priority but is something that we -- is more approachable and thus maybe something to focus on first, which kind of gets into my other comment, but I can --

>>Bonnie Denis: No. If you want to share your other comment, now is a perfectly fine time for it.

>>Lian: Yeah. So I think there's sort of two categories of things that I think would be a good place to start even if they're not necessarily like this is the biggest problem in the city right now in terms of what can actually happen. And I think one thing to keep in mind is we are a couple of people volunteering our time and meeting once a month and there's a limit to how much work we can practically do.

So I think in terms of what will have the biggest effect, it might be good to focus on things that are less of a we're doing work on something and more of a how do we get, you know, the full-time staff in the city onboard to be adding the things that will help with accessibility issues into the work that they're already doing and like how do we get the city council to be, you know, passing like zoning updates or adding things in that address the issues that are affecting us.

Because I think that that is probably where we would see the biggest actual change for the amount of work that we have the capacity to do.

And then the other thing is just are there small things we can do that will increase our capacity to get things done. One thing that I was thinking about with sort of the early discussion about being able to discuss things that we're asked for feedback on is as far as open meeting law, like the whole point of that is just that there's not discussion happening out of the public view, but like the Internet and records are a thing, like is it possible to just have something set up so that we can have conversations either by e-mail or by a forum that are archived or publicly accessible?

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. No. Open meeting law also addresses the public's ability to be informed in a reasonable time, so providing the info after the fact is not sufficient.

>>Lian: So something like a publicly viewable forum online like so that there's discussion and something where people can see it in real time?

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. It's not. No. This is Bonnie. So, I mean, I understand what you're saying and it's frustrating, but that would require the public to be paying attention 24 hours a day to reasonably think that they would be notified of everything possible, which isn't feasible.

>>Lian: Honestly, it is.

>>Bonnie Denis: But it's not anything that we can change; right. Like we're not going to be able to affect open meeting law.

>>Lian: I'm not trying to change open meeting law. I'm just like, is there a work around such that we could actually be able to get things done more than once a month?

>>Bonnie Denis: Brian?

>>Lian: I feel like there should be, but I could be wrong.

>>Brian: So this is Brian. Having had this very same problem before, having this very same, trying to make that answer work, Lian, it just doesn't. And so the solution that can work is creating subcommittees. But that's the only workable solution under open meeting law that we've found, and you need a larger commission to make that effective.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. When we did create subcommittees a few months ago, I was then told that they might not be compliant, and that is one of the outstanding things -- I know. So I find that hard to believe given that I know that other commissions do it, but we do need somebody to discuss that with us. And I know John Long is still doing stuff with the city so maybe he would be willing to come have a discussion with us. But I think subcommittees are supposed to work and then it was called into question whether or not we were allowed.

So that is definitely a thing that we need guidance on because I think right now we do have a fairly small commission and a lot of people that don't have a lot of time. But we are looking to add two people who both said they are committed to doing this work and are happy to be on subcommittees, and we can look to add more. Holly, I see that in the chat and I agree, we need to build the Commission. But I mean, we have two qualified people that I think will help with that.

But it's a thing for sure. We definitely have more work that can be done than can be done in a once- a- month meeting and figuring out how to be able to do more is critical.

But there's not a way --

>>Lian: My point then is maybe there's not a way around that specifically, but like how do we -- are there things that we can do to increase our capacity would be sort of like the general category of --

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I'm putting that under legal compliance because I think -- I think subcommittees probably are the answer at this point. I could do a separate category for increased capacity, that is -- so member recruitment strategies is one of the things on this prioritization list, so it sounds like people agree that that

is important.

>>Holly: Bonnie, this is Holly. I'm sorry, Lian, I interrupted you earlier.

>>Lian: No, I interrupted you.

>>Holly: We all know people who we work with outside of this Commission who we live next door to that we could probably inquire about if they're interested in joining the Commission, and I believe that the city should post that we are looking for more commissioners.

I do see that there are other commissions or councils where they're looking to fill seats and I think that that should be a fairly easy thing to had an. Maybe I'm underthinking this, Denise, but I think that we need more people and then that will allow us to do formal subcommittees once we understand how those need to be structured.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Yes. The city has sent out those notices. I think that could be done more frequently, but that is how we found several of the folks that have shown up. And we lost several of those folks by not having a good process and having the ADA Coordinator leave in the middle of that and people's schedules. But also, I will note that the majority of the spaces are supposed to be filled by people with disabilities. So I don't think it's as simple as just asking all of our neighbors because we do need to ensure that we are getting more people with disabilities.

>>Holly: But I would just disagree, which we all get to agree and disagree. I think that when I say neighbors, I mean people in our community. And most disabilities are hidden. And I think that that broad -- that we can also engage people from different groups who -- the federation for children, if we are allowed to write to them or to ask them to share that we are looking for people in our -- and who would be willing to join our group. And there are commissioners and there are not fully commissioners. They don't get to vote, but they are on the Commission and I don't have any words left, and I think that we should as -- we should not have any bias in just opening the doors to people that may or may not have a visible disability or may have a great interest and wonderful comments to move things forward for those that are disabled.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. I'll note that that requirement is a state law for who is on the Commission. That's not a bias. That's a -- it is written that the majority of our people are supposed to have disabilities and that does include people with invisible disabilities for sure.

>>Holly: But it's the majority, not all. I'm just saying --

>>Bonnie Denis: There is a space for an ally and there is a space for a family member of a person with disabilities. But in terms of outreach, there is -- there is nothing stopping -- I mean, I have shared it and I'm happy to ask Colin to put it in the next DPC newsletter again. If you want to contact the Federation For Children in New York, that would be great. There is absolutely nothing preventing us from sharing it.

>>Holly: I just meant it as a conversation. Do we have suggestions and ideas, because we need to grow the Commission and I think that the more people and the more feedback and diversity that we have, the better we're going to be able to respond to the public's needs.

Denise, is there a way that we can -- when you go to the home page to the city's website there is a piece where it pops up looking for people for commissions or councils. Is that something that we can add to for ourselves?

>>Denise: This is Denise. I can definitely speak to our webmaster person. I don't think it would be something that's difficult to add- on to it. It's just a matter of where it would be appropriate to put it on and the language that would need to be used for it. So I will double- check tomorrow. If there is an issue or a process that needs to happen, I'll make sure to clarify that as well.

Sorry, this is Denise again, that is if the Commission as a whole agrees that's something they would like to add to the page.

>>Holly: Understood.

>>Bonnie Denis: Lian and then Brian. Sorry, and I can't tell, Henry if your hand is up or if you're -- okay. Great.

>>Lian: This is Lian. I think a couple things that I'm not sure how it would work out but would be good to think about in terms of that is, is there some role in what we do for people who are not on the Commission like interested in being on the Commission but are interested in helping with things if we identify things that the public could do, whether that's a, like, we don't have enough, you know, people hours to flag all of the restaurant violations in the city, but this is a thing that you can do while you're out and about if you see something, like this is what you can do. Because I bet there are probably people that would be really excited to do that little bit as they're out and about their daily life anyway, even if they can't commit to being on the Commission.

And then also, some, in whatever hours we do, trying to get at some way of making it clear that -- you know, I know, I was in this position and I bet there are a bunch of other

people who are like vaguely interested but are not sure if they count, and just having some bit in whatever outreach we're doing to be like, no, you do count, like even if your disability is not, you know, the ones everybody thinks about and the ones everybody sees, we are still interested in your perspective, could maybe help with some of the, like, getting the more diverse group and not losing out on those people who are -- feel like they, you know, their disability isn't severe enough for them to have input kind of thing.

>>Bonnie Denis: Brian.

>>Brian: So this is Brian. I wasn't going to -- I didn't have anything to follow up from Lian's, but I would say that the Associate Commissioner is probable the position that you're looking for and we already have that established in our bylaw. And it's much more flexible. There can be any number of them and they don't necessarily have to have a disability, they just need to represent the interests of people with disabilities.

So I think that's a much more flexible position that gives people who want to help kind of a, like almost an official role that they could play if we wanted to use that by, because the maximum we can have is nine members.

The one piece that I wanted to add to this, so first is to say I love this list. It warms my heart because it's all the things that I, like, love talking about, but they almost all have to do with the built environment and that's where I am --

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie, I added several that don't that I'm excited to talk about.

>>Brian: Did I not get to them yet? I was going to say, I really think we should have some items in here that are more about access to employment, access to housing, discrimination from those items, and maybe I haven't seen them in here yet.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. No, those were not in there, although I would say housing is the built environment, but there is also intersection with how city programs work.

>>Brian: Right. But what I was getting at is the list that I see in front of me on the screen, and I haven't looked at the doc itself, is heavily weighted to the hard scape, to the hard environment, and it's not as weighted to the softer elements that I think are also a really important part of civil rights law. And many other civil rights communities are almost exclusively -- excuse my hard versus soft -- but are more on the soft side and so I think there's something from that side that we can take. Actually, I think this is something that Denise probably has experience with that she



might be able to help us with.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you, those are great points. You're right, it is heavily weighted towards that. One thing that I put in here that I'll highlight is accessibility of public meeting documents, which, I mean, we saw with this, that I had failed to get people that parking document and that makes it hard for some folks here to go through it quickly.

But I testified at city council, right. I was asked to show up to a licenses and permits hearing meeting twice, and for the second one I had supplemental materials that I felt were really important to get up on the screen to show what the communication and lack of communication had been, and I submitted those ahead of time to the city clerk and to the person responsibility for open meeting law and requested them to be added as supplemental materials, much like I do with this meeting, and they were put up and then they were taken down. And I was like, hey, what happened? And I was told because sometimes agenda items don't get to -- like they don't take up all agenda items, their policy as a city is to not put materials up until the agenda item is called.

Now, that's a problem. It means that people can't participate in the civic process because if materials are being shared, and they often are, street scape designs, spreadsheets, budgets, all sorts of things get shared, and if those aren't up there, anybody who's visually impaired or has trouble processing a lot of information at one time, they're not being served.

And I had a brief back and forth with the city clerk where she acknowledged that problem and said we should talk about it. I said that it was kind of a larger issue and we've been talking about our own documents, which, you know, is the next one, the document library. And I said it might be great for her to show up to one of our meetings. I haven't heard back. I do need to follow- up on that.

But those things to me are, yeah, the softer stuff. It's not hard. We just need to get in the habit of doing it and we need to have everybody coordinated on that of your materials need to be done before 10 minutes before. They need to be sent to the right place. People need to know they're being posted. But this is a problem, too, in like every community meeting we show up and it's people on the city side giving a presentation for the first 15 or 20 or 30 minutes and then public comment. And some presenters are good about talking about every detail that's on the slide and some aren't. But if people don't have those to look at closer then we're not

being inclusive and welcoming.

So for me, those are pretty high priority because I think, one, they're important, and two, it shouldn't be a hard ask. I don't know what other folks think.

>>Jesse: This is Jesse. Do you feel that just for any sort of document, let's say like the mayor or our new mayor's presenting the budget, you think budget should be available on the website prior to the presentation?

>>Bonnie Denis: Absolutely.

>>Lian: Yes.

>>Bonnie Denis: Why wouldn't it be? If we're talking about people getting to have a part in that process and to get to review things and to get to provide public comment, we need to ensure that they have access. And, you know, I'm sorry, but I've just got to say I think the budget is a bad example because city council has been asking to have those documents ahead of time for years and I agree with them that to do their job they should have them, and if they exist, there's no reason not to share them.

>>Jesse: The reason I'm using that example, the budget is like a presentation. It's like I am presenting, this is my big idea and then, you know, comments after -- you know, it goes online right after it's presented. That's why I'm kind of saying like the process of --

>>Bonnie Denis: But people can't following the presentation if they can't access the materials being displayed. And the mayor definitely was not reading off every single line, even on his slides that were just like a couple of sentences before going into the line- by- line, because there were multiple points where accessibility was written but not verbally voiced, you know.

>>Jesse: Yeah. I'm just asking for clarification, that's all. I'm not arguing one point or the other, you know.

>>Bonnie Denis: Yup. Yes. Those should be. Anytime we're presenting a neighborhood plan, that should all be up there, too. The parking study task force meeting that I attended today, those materials definitely should have. I mean, it was a prime example this afternoon, like I wasn't the only person and I don't think I was the first person raising that. They were talking while having a visual presentation that had extra material on it, while people were using chat, while there was also a Q&A, and at several points they had an external website which the city has taken to popularizing which I don't think is very accessible, unless you're going to tell people ahead of time, all the surveys are being done by going to another website, which means you have to be able to

navigate away from Zoom and navigate back, which is just not possible for a lot of people unless they know ahead of time that they need to have multiple screens or multiple windows.

But trying to contain all of that information was difficult for people with no neuroprocessing issues, no visual impairments, no hearing impairments, unless they weren't mentioned. Like it's a lot. And if the whole point is to engage the community, we need to give people the material to be engaged with instead of assuming that every person can, like, digest it quickly and respond quickly.

And I know that there's public comment periods, but like we're not showing up to meetings because we can just take going and looking at documents on our own and process it alone. We're showing up because we want to have that group discussion. We want to get the answers from the people who are presenting it. We want to be engaged in the process.

>>Jesse: I hear what you're saying. I don't think I have a great solution, but I definitely hear what you're saying.

>>Bonnie Denis: Well, I mean solution-wise, things are being posted afterwards. So I guess I'm curious why we can't just post things beforehand. Like that sounds like a working internally on process for when deadlines are expected, which might take time to shift but shouldn't be unreasonable to get to.

>>Jesse: No, I don't think this request is unreasonable. I think it's just -- I think it really starts with talking to the communications department because a lot of how we communicate starts there, and explain, you know, this -- I don't want to say it's an ask. This is something that should be necessary for the community to be involved and just say, can we do this and explain why. I mean, I think --

>>Bonnie Denis: So is that something that we should set up, like somebody from the communications department coming into one of our meetings?

>>Jesse: It could just be an e-mail, once we have the ADA Coordinator onboard, we explain and say we would like this to be the process going forward.

>>Brian: Bonnie, if I may, this is Brian, I think a fair number of items on here are especially requesting the city to change their processes probably should first start out as some sort of formal or informal request, probably a formal request from the Commission for this very same reason that you're talking about, so that the communication department, but there's also other departments that come up and other things, so they can have an opportunity to understand what the request is, what the implications of it are before sitting in a

meeting with us to go over it, rather than coming into a meeting not really understanding what the scope of the conversation is.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you. Yes. So I think what's missing from this is, you know, Holly asked about how do we set priorities as a Commission and I wanted to take that. And Denise said how do we talk to the ADA Coordinator about what's important, and my goal was trying to tie the two together of like this person will need to have an understanding of all of the major things that we've identified and we've been talking about as a Commission and then some idea of what we think is important to tackle off the bat.

So, yes, absolutely, and I like that idea, but I also like -- I kind of want a sense of how to meet with the ADA Coordinator as the chair and say, like, here are the things we've talked about. Here are the things we see. How do you want to approach this? But definitely not, like, the intention is not to just go to the communications department and say, do this tomorrow. But I appreciate the reminder that framing it with education is helpful.

And I will just state for the record that that's going to be harder for me personally in some departments than others based on history of success or lack thereof of getting some of these things listened to, but I will do my best to --

>>Jesse: This is Jesse. Going back to talking about who we hired for the ADA Coordinator one of the things I like about her is she uses that approach of the education approach and not, you know, you need to fix this now. This is why it's an issue and you need to fix it now. So I hope there's a synergy there and we get results from it.

>>Bonnie Denis: I saw Henry and I see you, Lian. But Henry.

>>Henry: Thank you. This is Henry. I'm not a lawyer and I'm not an expert in public documents law, but I just wanted to note that under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 22, quote, all documents and exhibits used at the open session shall be public records in their entirety and not exempt from disclosure, et cetera, et cetera. So it's not clear to me that the documents are required to be disclosed before the meeting, but certainly at the meeting everything that's presented must be part of the official minutes, if I'm not mistaken in my understanding.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Yes. But the problem with that is if they're presented at the meeting while they're being presented, which isn't usually what's happening, what's happening is they're posted right afterwards, but either way

it doesn't allow people to engage with them while they're happening. I mean, like today's meeting had a massive slide presentation and multiple surveys and, like, break-out questions that people were expected to respond to in the moment and there was so much going on at the same time that, like, you couldn't follow it all. And had those things been shared ahead of time and we knew what the content was, it would have been pretty easy to have already thought about it, had formulated questions and be able to participate instead of using all of our focus on like just --

>>Henry: And I entirely agree. I'm reading from a long document called public records, electronic documents and traps for the unwary, which was in the Massachusetts Municipal Association Municipal Advocate Volume 27. And from what they're saying, it's clear that all the documents must be available at the meeting in order to enable public participation.

I would love if it said "before" and I think that would be a correct position. I'm just trying to understand what the minimum requirements are that have to be met. Thank you.

>>Bonnie Denis: Thanks. Lian.

>>Lian: Yeah. Just to sort of tie everything back to the original discussion about priorities, I think one of the biggest sort of overarching priorities should be how do we get -- how do we shift the sort of general, I don't want to say opinion, but like how the city is working such that these things are considered just sort of as a matter of fact, like, of course this is something that's taken into consideration rather than this only comes up if we directly bring it up, and so I think a lot of the things that we've been talking about sort of fall under that umbrella of getting, you know, the full-time staff in the city onboard with what needs to happen for things to be done accessibly.

And I think that a lot of those, both from a size of the effect and the approachability of how much work it is for us are probably going to be a lot of the sort of highest priorities of what to focus on.

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. Thank you, Lian. I would agree with that. I can use myself as an example. I shouldn't need to show up to a licenses and permits committee session, certainly not multiple months in a row to get Commission involvement with outdoor dining regulations and, you know, I still don't have the documents that a city councillor directed city staff to provide me with. Like a public records request has been filed trying to get things.

Like it's a ludicrous amount of work and, you know, I

appreciate the staff that's here in the room and there's certainly a couple others that I think have really worked hard to show that they're trying, but there's a lot that that's not the case and, you know, we exist as a Commission to serve the city and to help, and we just put so much time into fighting instead of working together and I think we could accomplish a lot more by not doing that, so, yeah.

>>Holly: Bonnie, I'd like to just add that the slides that we were given towards the end were quite lengthy do have some details and facts that we may -- that will help us understand part of the plans, but we have to read that later. But also, I'm having a problem sharing a file. Maybe I'll send it to you afterwards. Where it outlines, of course, without a date, Mass Office on Disability about things about our Commission and the framework and things Brian added --

>>Bonnie Denis: Oh, sorry. Yes, finish and I just want to note, Brian put in a time check and I completely in my head it was 8:30 and we're now at almost 8:15, but really we were supposed to end at 8:00, but I want to hear what you're saying, Holly and then wrap up.

>>Holly: No worries. It's a good document. It might help us with some of the things that we've discussed. One thing that I knew it had changed, you said nine, Brian, for the members?

>>Brian: Nine.

>>Holly: So it became 13 in July of 2016. Again, I don't --

>>Bonnie Denis: This is Bonnie. That's a commission- by-commission basis to set the number of commissioners.

>>Holly: Okay. Then I thank you for that.

>>Bonnie Denis: I mean, we could talk about upping it, but we haven't ever hit the nine, so I think trying to get there is --

>>Holly: No. I think it's great. Nine is certainly the goal and it does outline the dual roles of commissioner and a nonvoting commissioner. But I think it has some great ideas in it. So I'll send it to you, Bonnie, and you can decide what to do next with it.

>>Bonnie Denis: Yes. I will sure --

>>Holly: This has been a great discussion tonight and thank you.

>>Bonnie Denis: Thank you, everyone. I will do a little bit of categorization of this document and then e-mail it to folks. Obviously, we can't discuss it. Sorry. So I'm just going to send it to folks and you can feel free to take it on your own, make notes, revamp, what have you, so you can come

back to it next month, at which point we should have the new ADA Coordinator and we can kind of just go over broad strokes of like here are the big pictures of things and here's the categories and kind of how we're each viewing them and start a discussion from there.

So thank you everyone. And thank you, Brian, for the time check.

>>Brian: You're welcome.

>>Bonnie Denis: Do we need a motion to close?

>>Brian: I move to adjourn.

>>Bonnie Denis: I second.

>>Lian: I second.

>>Bonnie Denis: All in favor? Aye.

>>Lian: Aye.

>>Brian: Have a good evening, everybody.

>>Bonnie Denis: You, too. Bye.

[Human realtime captioning by HRI CART.]

(Concluded at 8:16 p.m.)